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SUBJECT: Developments in the World Peace Council (WPC)

1. It is agreed that the change in the policies of the WPC and the adjustments taking place in the Peace Movement undoubtedly stem from the Declaration issued from the November 1957 Moscow meetings of Communist Party leaders. Paragraph 3 of Reference "A" substantiates our belief that the Soviets as well as the Chinese are encouraging radicalization of WPC policies and that this radicalization will place a serious strain on the Western Peace committees.

2. There is evidence of dissension during 1958, particularly over the severe wording of WPC statements regarding the Algerian situation and more pointedly anti-American charges, between the Chinese and Western members of the Council, with the formerly dominant French element apparently giving way to the rising Asian influence in and orientation of the Council. However, we see no indications that any serious open disputes will develop should the radicalization of the WPC proceed to the point that some of the Western members or factions within Western peace committees feel impelled to withdraw. We believe that it is possible that some of the WPC stalwarts would personally accept the inevitability of the shift in the WPC's general line and continue activity in the peace field under different auspices after ostensibly disassociating themselves from the WPC. Such persons might well concentrate almost exclusively on encouraging and strengthening pacifist and anti-German activities in Europe where such negative activities inevitably tend to weaken national unity and the maintenance of an effective defensive posture towards the Soviet Bloc.

3. Recent actions of J. D. Bernal, Acting President of the WPC, may be a case in point of the flexibility of Communist front tactics. He, in his dual role as a Vice President of both the World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW) and of the WPC, joined Drs. Edwards and Norregard, two other WFSW officers, in successfully opposing, for the first time in WFSW history, open collaboration with the WPC in organizing the Stockholm Conference.

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This position was undoubtedly taken because such collaboration would be detrimental to WPC's chances of regaining UNESCO status rather than a position based on any point of principle. In view of his continued WPC activity, this action could only have been justified as purely tactical. Bernal's contact with non-Communist anti-atomic weapon groups supports our assessment.

4. We are inclined to discount completely the statement in paragraph 5 of Reference "A" regarding the possibility that the Chinese would leave the WPC. In this connection, we believe that such events as the induction of WPC Vice President Kuo Mo-jo into the Chinese Communist Party and the reaffirmation of complete unity on fundamental issues made by both Soviets and Chinese at the 21st Congress of the CPSU suggest that, if a divergence of views did exist, it has probably been effectively eliminated. A brief discussion of dissension within the Peace Movement is attached. Your views would be appreciated.

5. Comments on the selection of a president to replace the late Joliot-Curie are of interest. On the basis of Ramesh Chandra's article (New Age, 15 March) on the Moscow Bureau meeting, it would appear that it was found impossible (or possibly, undesirable) to pick an individual from either faction, and that a "collective leadership" ("Presiding Committee") was the most practical solution to the problem. The possibility suggested in paragraph 5, Reference "A" was therefore carried out. The collective Presidency reportedly will, however, consist of at least 21 members, many of whom will be Africans, Asians and Latin Americans, thus better reflecting the shift in many of the movement's activities to these areas.

6. We are aware of many instances when the WPC has sought to exploit the efforts of non-Communist groups springing up around the anti-nuclear weapons theme and has attempted to link its efforts with those of other international organizations in general. The "peace conference to cover NATO countries" mentioned in Reference "A" might well be another in the series of WPC-sponsored conferences attributed to a Committee for the Peaceful Solution of the German Problem, or a new organizational guise for this effort, which has functioned since the early 1950's when it was organized

to help defeat the European Defense Community (EDC). WPC programs have for the last three years included plans for a "European conference" and one was scheduled to take place in February or March 1959 to discuss the Rapacki Plan for an atom-free zone in central Europe. The times are propitious for such a conference.

7. The proposed conference in October 1959 is of special interest to us and any further information concerning it would be appreciated. It will be remembered that the WPC traditionally holds major conferences biennially. Although the May 1959 meeting in Stockholm was announced as a plenary Council meeting, it has also been publicized as a major conference to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Movement (the actual dates of the founding of the Movement and of the naming of the WPC do not agree with this). An October conference would be the third major WPC conference in fourteen months. We are very interested in determining the reason for this stepping up of WPC activity along this line since we suspect it has a direct relationship to the change in the orientation of the Peace Movement which began in November 1957. This meeting may have a connection with an international conference planned by the European committee against atomic war (see paragraph 12).

8. J. D. Bernal was in the United States in November 1958. We have no information concerning any but his lecturing activities but he could have easily contacted the organizations mentioned in the report. An effort will be made to ascertain if there is any regular contact between the WPC and the American Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy. This Committee is often quoted in the WPC Bulletin and it publishes statements that place the onus for failure to achieve an international agreement concerning nuclear weapons upon the United States; in general it fails to criticize Soviet positions and arguments in that field.

9. Concerning Reference "B", the statement on page 5 that the WPC lacks a constitution is, of course, incorrect. A copy is attached hereto. The similarity between it and the IIP constitution is apparent.

10. The parenthetical Note to paragraph 19 of Reference "B" is incorrect, according to our information. Nesterov's speech at

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the Afro-Asian Economic Conference at Cairo in December 1958 was printed but not delivered. He did not talk about a "pool", but instead, emphasized national economic development programs and bilateral economic aid and trade. At most he gave passing endorsement to "a more active utilization of United Nations bodies (regional economic commissions, the raw materials commission, etc.)/[which] could also serve the purpose of greater all-round Afro-Asian cooperation." At the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference at Cairo in December 1957, Arsumanyan discussed various measures that might be related to a "pooling" concept, so far as pricing, marketing and tariffs were concerned, but with emphasis on economic development programs for individual countries. He made it clear that the Soviet Union was not in favor of more advanced "pool" ideas, such as an Afro-Asian "common market" or development bank, and that private capital investment as a "technique of colonial plunder," among the Afro-Asian countries was definitely undesirable.

11. Concerning the International Club in Brussels (paragraph 29, Reference "B"), we have noted that the WPC Bulletin recommended that similar clubs should be set up in all capital cities. For this reason, we feel that this type of organization bears watching, if it is continued.

12. It is believed that the tactic expressed in paragraphs 10, 11, 12 and 13 of Reference "B" will be of major emphasis for future WPC efforts--i.e., collaboration with "peace forces" outside the Peace Movement. This was a major theme at the Moscow Bureau meeting in February 1959, is used throughout the propaganda for the 10th anniversary celebration, and is a major item in the current "Geneva campaign" against nuclear tests and weapons. These other "peace forces" will consist of the anti-atomic war committees springing up in many countries, national "liberation" movements, and as many individuals from the bona fide pacifist organizations as can be drawn into "cooperation", such as the Quakers, Brotherhood of Reconciliation, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and so forth. This is not a new tactic but it has a new approach. The WPC now disclaims any desire for affiliation. It openly sides with Soviet proposals as good solutions for international problems, but declares that the life-and-death subject of

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atomic war is one theme which surmounts political orientation and therefore that atomic explosions must be jointly condemned. The London conference (mentioned in paragraph 17 of Reference "A") which decided to hold an international anti-atomic conference in the autumn clearly reflects plans made for an autumn conference on that subject by the WPC in its December meeting in Helsinki. The British Direct Action Committee Against Atomic War contains many prominent non-Communists, as does the American Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and many of the other groups represented at the London conference. There is every indication that the WPC will go along with other groups and claim collaboration with them even if it cannot dominate them or be invited officially. It has given this London conference and its planned expansion every support in the Bulletin and elsewhere in its propaganda. It is also certain that there are active WPC sympathizers in all of these new anti-bomb committees, and that the whole set-up is a contribution to the WPC anti-atomic weapons campaign of years' standing. This new approach may be more rewarding to WPC objectives than its previous tactics have been.

13. We question the statement (paragraph 7, Reference "A") that the WPC cannot use its Vienna headquarters because it is no longer functioning there officially. The Preparatory Committee for the Stockholm conference in July 1958 functioned openly for months in Vienna, the WPC Executive Committee met there openly in October 1958 and issued official plans for the celebration of the 10th anniversary from there, and general letters of instructions from the WPC to its national committees state that any replies should be sent to Vienna.

14. We take this opportunity to inquire if the source can clarify some organizational questions.

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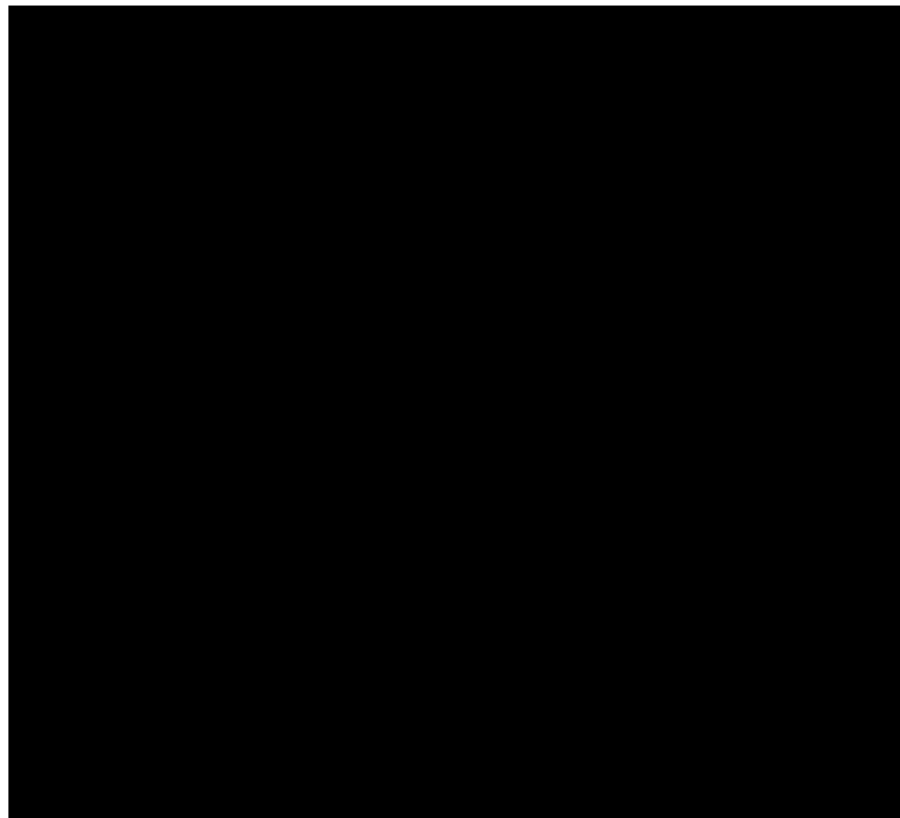
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